

RYBAXIS SAULCY, 1876 (INSECTA, COLEOPTERA): PROPOSED
DESIGNATION OF A TYPE-SPECIES UNDER THE PLENARY
POWERS. Z.N.(S.) 1882

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In 1966 (*Bull. zool. Nomencl.* **23** : 114–116) the present author requested the addition to the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology of the generic name *Rybaxis* Saulcy, 1876, with type-species, by designation by Jeannel, 1950, *Pselaphus sanguineus* Reichenbach, 1816. Although the proposals presented in that application were agreed to by a large majority of Commissioners (see Opinion 887, p. 133 of the present part), additional information since received necessitates a further application on *Rybaxis*.

2. Saulcy 1876 (*Bull. Soc. Hist. nat. Metz* **14** : 28, 96) included two species in his new genus *Rybaxis*, the first being *Bryaxis sanguinea* attributed to Fabricius, (1801 *Syst. Eleuth.* **1** : 293) (as *Anthicus*). This species, cited as "*sanguinea* Fabricius" was designated as type of the genus by Jeannel 1950 (*Faune de France* **53** : 280) who placed *Rybaxis* in the synonymy of *Bryaxis* Leach, 1817.

3. In his discussion of the species *sanguinea* Jeannel states that this is without doubt the species cited under the name *Pselaphus sanguineus* by Illiger, 1798 (*Käf. Preuss.* : 291) and as *Anthicus sanguineus* Fabricius 1801, but that the uncertainty which persists on the identification of the species obliged him to take as the first valid description that of Reichenbach 1816 (*Mon. Pselaph.* : 49). Jeannel lists *Bryaxis longicornis* Leach, 1817, as a synonym.

4. It is now discovered that Illiger, Fabricius and Reichenbach all attributed their species to Linnaeus as *Staphylinus sanguineus* 1758 (*Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) **1** : 422). *Staphylinus sanguineus* Linnaeus, however, is not a pselaphid, but a staphylinid of the genus *Aleochara* Gravenhorst and has been so applied since its first proposal. The type of the species is preserved in the Linnean collection in London, and has been examined by Mr. P. M. Hammond of the British Museum (Natural History).

5. It seems, therefore, that a species *sanguineus* derived from Linnaeus has been simultaneously in use in two different families of the Coleoptera over a period of 150 years, although the pselaphid species has been variously attributed, usually to either Fabricius or Reichenbach.

6. This confusion could be avoided by the designation of *Bryaxis longicornis* Leach, 1817 (*Zool. Miscell.* **3** : 85) as type of *Rybaxis*. The type of Leach's species (one male) is in the Leach collection in the British Museum (Natural History). The International Commission is therefore requested:

(1) to use its plenary powers to set aside all designations of type-species for the nominal genus *Rybaxis* Saulcy, 1876, made prior to the Ruling now proposed, and having done so to designate *Bryaxis longicornis* Leach, 1817, to be the type of that genus;

(2) to place the generic name *Rybaxis* Saulcy, 1876 (gender : feminine) type-species, by designation under the plenary powers in (1) above, *Bryaxis longicornis* Leach, 1817, on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology;

(3) to place the specific name *longicornis* Leach, 1817, as published in the binomen *Bryaxis longicornis* (type-species of *Rybaxis* Saulcy, 1876) on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology.